

THE STORY BEHIND THE PERFIN

No. 1.

HUNGERFORD ASSOCIATES' PERFIN PAYS HOMAGE

AND AVOIDS THE DRAGON:

by Tony Edwards

Hungerford Associates use a small 'H' as a perfin and on normal English stamps this is placed diagonally in the top left hand corner. It was placed in that unusual position to avoid defacing the profile of the Queen. Collectors will recall that when Sloper was first given permission to perforate stamps, one of the conditions was that the holes should not fall on the head of the Queen. This led to designs containing small letters being widely spaced into the corners, thus avoiding the profile of Victoria. This condition was soon ignored but has been revived by Hungerford Associates.

When Hungerford Associates Welsh Office opened and began to use Welsh Regionals, it was considered equally improper to deface "Y Driag Goch", the Welsh Dragon, so the perfin was moved from top left to top right, thus preserving both sovereign and dragon from defacement.
